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117TH CONGRESS
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S. 2123

[Report No. 117-81]

To establish the Federal Clearinghouse on Safety and Security Best Practices for Faith-Based Organizations and Houses of Worship, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 17, 2021

Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. ROUNDS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

FEBRUARY 17, 2022

Reported by Mr. PETERS, with amendments

[Omit the part struck through and insert the part printed in italic]

A BILL

To establish the Federal Clearinghouse on Safety and Security Best Practices for Faith-Based Organizations and Houses of Worship, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Pray Safe Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act—

3 (1) the term “Clearinghouse” means the Fed-
4 eral Clearinghouse on Safety Best Practices for
5 Faith-Based Organizations and Houses of Worship
6 established under section 2220A of the Homeland
7 Security Act of 2002, as added by section 3 of this
8 Act;

9 (2) the term “Department” means the Depart-
10 ment of Homeland Security; **and**

11 *(3) the terms “faith-based organization” and
12 “house of worship” have the meanings given such
13 terms under section 2220A of the Homeland Security
14 Act of 2002, as added by section 3 of this Act; and*

15 *(3)(4) the term “Secretary” means the Sec-
16 retary of Homeland Security.*

17 **SEC. 3. FEDERAL CLEARINGHOUSE ON SAFETY AND SECU-**
18 **RITY BEST PRACTICES FOR FAITH-BASED OR-**
19 **GANIZATIONS AND HOUSES OF WORSHIP.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title XXII of the
21 Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 651 et seq.),
22 as amended by section 9, is amended by adding at the
23 end *the following:*

1 **“SEC. 2220A. FEDERAL CLEARINGHOUSE ON SAFETY AND**
2 **SECURITY BEST PRACTICES FOR FAITH-**
3 **BASED ORGANIZATIONS AND HOUSES OF**
4 **WORSHIP.**

5 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

6 “(1) the term ‘Clearinghouse’ means the Clear-
7 inghouse *on Safety and Security Best Practices for*
8 *Faith-Based Organizations and Houses of Worship*
9 established under subsection (b) (1);

10 “(2) the term ‘faith-based organization’ means
11 a group, center, or nongovernmental organization at
12 risk because of religious, ideological, or spiritual be-
13 liefs; and

14 “(2) the term ‘faith-based organization’ means a
15 group, center, or nongovernmental organization with
16 a religious, ideological, or spiritual motivation, char-
17 acter, affiliation, or purpose;

18 “(3) the term ‘house of worship’ means a place
19 or building, including synagogues, mosques, temples,
20 and churches, in which congregants practice their re-
21 ligious or spiritual beliefs; and

22 “(4) the term ‘safety and security’, for the pur-
23 pose of the Clearinghouse, means prevention of, pro-
24 tection against, or recovery from threats, including
25 manmade disasters, natural disasters, or violent at-
26 tacks.

1 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days
3 after the date of enactment of the Pray Safe Act,
4 the Secretary, in consultation with the Attorney
5 General, the Executive Director of the White House
6 Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partner-
7 ships, and the head of any other agency that the
8 Secretary determines appropriate, shall establish a
9 Federal Clearinghouse on Safety and Security Best
10 Practices for Faith-Based Organizations and Houses
11 of Worship within the Department.

12 “(2) PURPOSE.—The Clearinghouse shall be
13 the primary resource of the Federal Government—

14 “(A) to educate and publish online best
15 practices and recommendations for safety and
16 security for faith-based organizations and
17 houses of worship; and

18 “(B) to provide information relating to
19 Federal grant programs available to faith-based
20 organizations and houses of worship.

21 “(3) PERSONNEL.—

22 “(A) ASSIGNMENTS.—The Clearinghouse
23 shall be assigned such personnel and resources
24 as the Secretary considers appropriate to carry
25 out this section.

1 “(B) DETAILEES.—The Secretary may co-
2 ordinate detailees as required for the Clearing-
3 house.

4 “(C) DESIGNATED POINT OF CONTACT.—
5 There shall be not less than 1 employee as-
6 signed or detailed to the Clearinghouse who
7 shall be the designated point of contact to pro-
8 vide information and assistance to faith-based
9 organizations and houses of worship, including
10 assistance relating to the grant program estab-
11 lished under section 5 of the Pray Safe Act.
12 The contact information of the designated point
13 of contact shall be made available on the
14 website of the Clearinghouse.

15 “(D) QUALIFICATION.—To the maximum
16 extent possible, any personnel assigned or de-
17 tailed to the Clearinghouse under this para-
18 graph should be familiar with faith-based orga-
19 nizations and houses of worship and with phys-
20 ical and online security measures to identify
21 and prevent safety and security risks.

22 “(c) CLEARINGHOUSE CONTENTS.—

23 “(1) EVIDENCE-BASED TIERS.—

24 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in con-
25 sultation with the Attorney General, the Execu-

1 tive Director of the White House Office of
2 Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships,
3 and the head of any other agency that the Sec-
4 retary determines appropriate, shall develop
5 tiers for determining evidence-based practices
6 that demonstrate a significant effect on improv-
7 ing safety or security, or both, for faith-based
8 organizations and houses of worship.

9 “(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The tiers required
10 to be developed under subparagraph (A) shall—

11 “(i) prioritize—

12 “(I) strong evidence from not
13 less than 1 well-designed and well-im-
14 plemented experimental study; and

15 “(II) moderate evidence from not
16 less than 1 well-designed and well-im-
17 plemented quasi-experimental study;
18 and

19 “(ii) consider promising evidence that
20 demonstrates a rationale based on high-
21 quality research findings or positive eval-
22 uations that such activity, strategy, or
23 intervention is likely to improve security
24 and promote safety for faith-based organi-
25 zations and houses of worship.

1 “(2) CRITERIA FOR BEST PRACTICES AND REC-
2 OMMENDATIONS.—The best practices and rec-
3 ommendations of the Clearinghouse shall, at a min-
4 imum—

5 “(A) identify areas of concern for faith-
6 based organizations and houses of worship, in-
7 cluding event planning recommendations, check-
8 lists, facility hardening, tabletop exercise re-
9 sources, and other resilience measures;

10 “(B) involve comprehensive safety meas-
11 ures, including threat prevention, preparedness,
12 protection, mitigation, incident response, and
13 recovery to improve the safety posture of faith-
14 based organizations and houses of worship upon
15 implementation;

16 “(C) involve comprehensive safety meas-
17 ures, including preparedness, protection, mitiga-
18 tion, incident response, and recovery to improve
19 the resiliency of faith-based organizations and
20 houses of worship from manmade and natural
21 disasters;

22 “(D) include any evidence or research ra-
23 tionale supporting the determination of the
24 Clearinghouse that the best practice *s* or rec-
25 ommendation *s* under subparagraph (B) has

1 *have* been shown to have a significant effect on
2 improving the safety and security of individuals
3 in faith-based organizations and houses of wor-
4 ship, including—

5 “(i) findings and data from previous
6 Federal, State, local, Tribal, territorial,
7 private sector, and nongovernmental orga-
8 nization research centers relating to safety,
9 security, and targeted violence at faith-
10 based organizations and houses of worship;
11 and

12 “(ii) other supportive evidence or find-
13 ings relied upon by the Clearinghouse in
14 determining best practices and recommen-
15 dations to improve the safety and security
16 posture of a faith-based organization or
17 house of worship upon implementation;
18 and

19 “(E) *include* an overview of the available
20 resources the Clearinghouse can provide for
21 faith-based organizations and houses of wor-
22 ship.

23 “(3) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—The Clear-
24 inghouse shall maintain and make available a com-
25 prehensive index of all Federal grant programs for

1 which faith-based organizations and houses of wor-
2 ship are eligible, which shall include the performance
3 metrics for each grant management that the recipi-
4 ent will be required to provide.

5 “(4) PAST RECOMMENDATIONS.—To the great-
6 est extent practicable, the Clearinghouse shall iden-
7 tify and present, as appropriate, best practices and
8 recommendations issued by Federal, State, local,
9 Tribal, territorial, private sector, and nongovern-
10 mental organizations relevant to the safety and secu-
11 rity of faith-based organizations and houses of wor-
12 ship.

13 “(d) ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING.—The Secretary
14 may produce and publish materials on the Clearinghouse
15 to assist and train faith-based organizations, houses of
16 worship, and law enforcement agencies on the implemen-
17 tation of the best practices and recommendations.

18 “(e) CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

20 “(A) collect for the purpose of continuous
21 improvement of the Clearinghouse—

22 “(i) Clearinghouse data analytics;

23 “(ii) user feedback on the implemen-
24 tation of resources, best practices, and rec-

1 ommendations identified by the Clearing-
2 house; and

3 “(iii) any evaluations conducted on
4 implementation of the best practices and
5 recommendations of the Clearinghouse;
6 and

7 “(B) in coordination with the Faith-Based
8 Security Advisory Council of the Department,
9 the Department of Justice, the Executive Direc-
10 tor of the White House Office of Faith-Based
11 and Neighborhood Partnerships, and any other
12 agency that the Secretary determines appro-
13 priate—

14 “(i) assess and identify Clearinghouse
15 best practices and recommendations for
16 which there are no resources available
17 through Federal Government programs for
18 implementation;

19 “(ii) provide feedback on the imple-
20 mentation of best practices and recommen-
21 dations of the Clearinghouse; and

22 “(iii) propose additional recommenda-
23 tions for best practices for inclusion in the
24 Clearinghouse; and

1 “(C) not less frequently than annually, ex-
2 amine and update the Clearinghouse in accord-
3 ance with—

4 “(i) the information collected under
5 subparagraph (A); and
6 “(ii) the recommendations proposed
7 under subparagraph (B)(iii).

8 “(2) ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The
9 Secretary shall submit to Congress, on an annual
10 basis, a report on the updates made to the Clearing-
11 house during the preceding 1-year period under
12 paragraph (1)(C), which shall include a description
13 of any changes made to the Clearinghouse.”.

14 (b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT §.—The table of con-
15 tents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of
16 2002 (Public Law 107–296; 116 Stat. 2135), as amended
17 by section 9 of this Act, is amended by inserting after
18 the item relating to section 2220 the following:

“Sec. 2220A. Federal Clearinghouse on Safety Best Practices for Faith-Based
Organizations and Houses of Worship.”.

19 **SEC. 4. NOTIFICATION OF CLEARINGHOUSE.**

20 The Secretary shall provide written notification of the
21 establishment of the Clearinghouse, with an overview of
22 the resources required as described in section 2220A of
23 the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section
24 3 of this Act, and section 5 of this Act, to—

- (1) every State homeland security advisor;
- (2) every State department of homeland security;
- (3) other Federal agencies with grant programs or initiatives that aid in the safety and security of faith-based organizations and houses of worship, as determined appropriate by the Secretary;
- (4) every Federal Bureau of Investigation Joint Terrorism Task Force;
- (5) every Homeland Security Fusion Center;
- (6) every State or territorial Governor or other chief executive;
- (7) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate; and
- (8) the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

19 SEC. 5. GRANT PROGRAM OVERVIEW.

20 (a) DHS GRANTS AND RESOURCES.—The Secretary

21 shall include a grants program overview on the website

22 of the Clearinghouse that shall—

23 (1) be the primary location for all information

24 regarding Department grant programs that are open

25 to faith-based organizations and houses of worship;

1 (2) directly link to each grant application and
2 any applicable user guides;

3 (3) identify all safety and security homeland se-
4 curity assistance programs managed by the Depart-
5 ment that may be used to implement best practices
6 and recommendation of the Clearinghouse;

7 (4) annually, and concurrent with the applica-
8 tion period for any grant identified under paragraph
9 (1), provide information related to the required ele-
10 ments of grant applications to aid smaller faith
11 based organizations and houses of worship in earn-
12 ing access to Federal grants; and

13 (5) provide frequently asked questions and an-
14 swers for the implementation of best practices and
15 recommendations of the Clearinghouse and best
16 practices for applying for a grant identified under
17 paragraph (1).

18 (b) OTHER FEDERAL GRANTS AND RESOURCES.—
19 Each Federal agency notified under section 4(3) shall pro-
20 vide necessary information on any Federal grant programs
21 or resources of the Federal agency that are available for
22 faith-based organizations and houses of worship to the
23 Secretary or the appropriate point of contact for the
24 Clearinghouse.

25 (c) STATE GRANTS AND RESOURCES.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Any State notified under
2 paragraph (1), (2), or (6) of section 4 may provide
3 necessary information on any grant programs or re-
4 sources of the State available for faith-based organi-
5 zations and houses of worship to the Secretary or
6 the appropriate point of contact for the Clearing-
7 house.

8 (2) IDENTIFICATION OF RESOURCES.—The
9 Clearinghouse shall, to the extent practicable, iden-
10 tify, for each State—

11 (A) each agency responsible for safety for
12 faith-based organizations and houses of worship
13 in the State, or any State that does not have
14 such an agency designated;

15 (B) any grant program that may be used
16 for the purposes of implementing best practices
17 and recommendations of the Clearinghouse; and

18 (C) any resources or programs, including
19 community prevention or intervention efforts,
20 that may be used to assist in targeted violence
21 and terrorism prevention.

22 **SEC. 6. OTHER RESOURCES.**

23 The Secretary shall, on the website of the Clearing-
24 house, include a separate section for other resources that
25 shall provide a centralized list of all available points of

1 contact to seek assistance in grant applications and in car-
2 rying out the best practices and recommendations of the
3 Clearinghouse, including—

- 4 (1) a list of contact information to reach De-
5 partment personnel to assist with grant-related ques-
6 tions;
- 7 (2) the applicable Cybersecurity and Infrastruc-
8 ture Security Agency contact information to connect
9 houses of worship with Protective Security Advisors;
- 10 (3) contact information for all Department Fu-
11 sion Centers, listed by State;
- 12 (4) information on the If you See Something
13 Say Something Campaign of the Department; and
- 14 (5) any other appropriate contacts.

15 **SEC. 7. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

16 Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this
17 Act shall be construed to create, satisfy, or waive any re-
18 quirement under Federal civil rights laws, including—

- 19 (1) title II of the Americans With Disabilities
20 Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12131 et seq.); or
- 21 (2) title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42
22 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.).

23 **SEC. 8. EXEMPTION.**

24 Chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (com-
25 monly known as the “Paperwork Reduction Act”) shall

1 not apply to any rulemaking or information collection re-
2 quired under this Act or under section 2220A of the
3 Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 3
4 of this Act.

5 **SEC. 9. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.**

6 (a) REDESIGNATIONS.—Subtitle A of title XXII of
7 the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 651 et seq.)
8 is amended—

9 (1) by redesignating section 2217 (6 U.S.C.
10 665f) as section 2220;

11 (2) by redesignating section 2216 (6 U.S.C.
12 665e) as section 2219;

13 (3) by redesignating the fourth section 2215
14 (relating to Sector Risk Management Agencies) (6
15 U.S.C. 665d) as section 2218;

16 (4) by redesignating the third section 2215 (re-
17 lating to the Cybersecurity State Coordinator) (6
18 U.S.C. 665c) as section 2217; and

19 (5) by redesignating the second section 2215
20 (relating to the Joint Cyber Planning Office) (6
21 U.S.C. 665b) as section 2216.

22 (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—
23 Section 2202(c) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002
24 (6 U.S.C. 652(c)) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (11), by striking “and” at the
 2 end;

3 (1)(2) in the first paragraph (12); —

4 (A) by striking “section 2215” and insert-
 5 ing “section 2217”; and

6 (B) by striking “and” at the end; and

7 (2)(3) by redesignating the second and third
 8 paragraphs (12) as paragraphs (13) and (14), re-
 9 spectively.

10 (c) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents in
 11 section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Public
 12 Law 107–296; 116 Stat. 2135) is amended by striking
 13 the item relating to section 2214 and all that follows
 14 through the item relating to section 2217 and inserting
 15 the following:

“Sec. 2214. National Asset Database.

“Sec. 2215. Duties and authorities relating to .gov internet domain.

“Sec. 2216. Joint Cyber Planning Office.

“Sec. 2217. Cybersecurity State Coordinator.

“Sec. 2218. Sector Risk Management Agencies.

“Sec. 2219. Cybersecurity Advisory Committee.

“Sec. 2220. Cybersecurity education and training programs.”.

16 (d) ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—

17 (1) AMENDMENT.—Section 904(b)(1) of the
 18 DOTGOV Act of 2020 (title IX of division U of
 19 Public Law 116–260) is amended, in the matter pre-
 20 ceding subparagraph (A), by striking “Homeland
 21 Security Act” and inserting “Homeland Security Act
 22 of 2002”.

1 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made
2 by paragraph (1) shall take effect as if enacted as
3 part of the DOTGOV Act of 2020 (title IX of divi-
4 sion U of Public Law 116–260).

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